



8th Annual Confluence Trash Bash

March 19 • Saturday • 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Living in the Confluence of America's two largest rivers, the Mississippi and the Missouri, we are surrounded by a host of active natural resources. Hundreds of bird species nest, feed, and/or migrate through the St. Louis area. There are fish to catch and eat, or release. We hike and bike along the Riverfront Trail, boat and float the rivers, hunt game, and observe nature. All is supported by the wonderful waters surrounding us.

Many have a tendency to take our water resources for granted. Unless our water looks or smells different, or just plain doesn't come out when the faucet is turned on, we don't give it a second thought. It's out of sight, out of mind.

It's the same with our trash. When it's in a can at the end of the driveway, we're done with it,

unless a raccoon or the neighbor's dog has knocked it over. Unfortunately, trash is also transported indiscriminately by wind and water as well as humans who don't know better or don't care.

That's why Confluence Trash Bash sponsors need your help to clean up rivers and streams in North St. Louis County and City. Last year alone volunteers collected approximately six tons of trash and scrap metal along with about 500 tires.

If you're game for getting muddy and having a good time, lunch and t-shirt are provided. For information on sites and to register visit <https://www.greenwaynetwork.org/projects-issues/confluence-trash-bash.php>. Prizes for odd trash collected. If your organized group needs transportation, please contact Colleen.Scott@mdc.mo.gov.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES OPEN HOUSE

Jay Henges Shooting Range

March 5 • Saturday • 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Have you thought about being a conservation volunteer? Do you have questions about volunteering and don't know where to start or who to call? Join us and learn about all the volunteer opportunities that are available through the Missouri Department of Conservation. From the shooting ranges, to hunter education, nature centers, and interpretive centers, we have a variety of opportunities open for you. We hope to see you there!

SPRING BREAK SPECIAL: PASSPORT TO NATURE

Visit August A. Busch Conservation Area, Columbia Bottom Conservation Area, Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, or Rockwoods Reservation and pick up your *Passport to Nature* booklet. Complete the activities for a site stamp. Visit at least three of the four participating sites and turn in your *Passport* at the last site you visit to receive a special prize. Details can be found on the listed site pages.

TRASH BASH DONORS AND PARTNERS

Donors

Missouri American Water
Great Rivers Greenway
Metropolitan St Louis Sewer District

In-kind Contributions

Missouri Stream Team
St Louis County
Missouri Department of Conservation

Planning Partners

St Louis Audubon
Greenway Network
Brightside St Louis

Participating Organizations and Municipalities

Maryland Heights Parks Department
City of Creve Coeur
Florissant
Bridgeton
Overland
Missouri River Relief
Big Muddy Adventures
City of St Louis
Hanley Hills
Bellefontaine Neighbors

To save paper, sign up to receive a direct link on-line to Conservation Connections by visiting www.mdc.mo.gov/govdelivery. Enter your email and subscribe to "News, Events and Newsletters - St. Louis Region."

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

April 1 – November 30
Wednesday: 11 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Thursday and Saturday: 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Friday and Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

December 1 – March 31
Wednesday – Sunday: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Beginning Handgun

March 3 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.
(Ages 16 and up)

This program will include basic handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own handgun and ammunition to the live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin Feb 16.)

Three Position Rifle Shooting Basics

March 8 • Tuesday and March 14 • Monday, 6 – 9 p.m. Both nights.
(Ages 10 and up)

Based on the basic positions of prone, standing, and kneeling. This is the basis for most national and international Olympic shooting competitions. (Reservations begin Feb 23.)

Intermediate Metallic Cartridge Reloading

March 10 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.
(Ages 13 and up)

Join our experts for an evening of tech talk and technique. Gain a more in-depth understanding of the skills of hand loading your own ammo. (Reservations begin Feb 25.)

Youth Wild Turkey Calling Clinic

March 15 • Tuesday • 6 – 8 p.m.
(Ages 6 - 15)

Come discover how exciting turkey calling can be at this informative workshop with Knight & Hale Pro-Staffer and National Calling Champion Keith Wahlig. We will discuss calling tips and techniques. (Reservations begin March 1.)

Beginner's Wild Turkey Hunting Clinic

March 19 • Saturday • 9 – 4 p.m.
(Ages 6 and up)

Missouri offers some of the best turkey hunting in the nation. This beginner clinic will cover biology and behavior, natural history, management, calls and calling, turkey hunting tactics, safety, ethics, and field care. (Reservations begin March 5.)

Shooting Sports Sampler

March 24 • Thursday • 6 – 10 p.m.
(Ages 11 and up)

We'll offer you a chance to try different types of firearms as well as archery equipment. (Reservations begin March 10.)

Beginning Youth .22 Target Rifle Shooting

March 26 • Saturday • 8 – 9:30 a.m.
(Ages 9 – 15)

Young people who have no experience shooting rifles are invited to participate. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Missouri Mushroom Hunting Basics

March 26 • Saturday • 1 – 5 p.m.
(Ages 10 and up)

We will cover mushrooming topics that can help you find, collect, identify and prepare edible mushrooms. Then we will take a short hike to look for a few mushrooms. (Reservations begin March 12.)

Beginner's Trap Shooting

March 31 • Thursday • 6 – 10 p.m.
(Experienced shotgun shooters only, ages 11 and up)

We'll learn the basics of trapshooting and shoot a round for scoring. Shotguns and ammo will be provided, or you may bring your own 12 or 20 gauge shotgun and use our ammo or other gauge with your own ammo (shot size 7 or smaller.) Basic shotgun training and experience is required. (Reservations begin March 17.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

REMINDER The August A. Busch Shooting Range is closed for a total renovation. For more information see our website <http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/st-louis/august-busch-shooting-range> and visit our blog <http://mdc.mo.gov/blogs/busch-range-renovations>

You may also see progress on the renovation by visiting the web cam at <http://www.workzonecam.com/projects/worldwide/buschrange/workzonecam2>

Youth and Women's Quail Hunt

March 10 • Thursday • 6 – 8 p.m.

March 12 • Saturday • 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(Youth ages 11 – 15/women ages 11 and up)

Join our experts and learn about the bobwhite quail and what it takes to hunt these elusive birds. Thursday will be the clinic, located at the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom where you will learn about habitat, safety, clothing, firearms, chokes, and how to hunt these birds. Saturday we will head to the field at Wilnor Hunt Club, for an actual hunt. Women's hunt will be 8 – 11 a.m. and youth 12 – 3 p.m. Hunters must attend the clinic and be Hunter Ed certified. Hunters must have attended the pheasant clinic and hunt held through Busch Range. This hunt is for hunters who have not participated in this hunt in the past. Ages 11-15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin Feb 10.)

Turkey Hunting 101

March • 24 • Thursday • 6 – 9 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Are you new to turkey hunting, or want to learn more about hunting these elusive birds? Join our experts as they teach safety, techniques, clothing, firearms, ammunition, calling, and what it takes to hunt these birds. This program will meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. Ages 10-15 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin Feb 25.)



Due to the range closure, all Busch Range programs will be held at the Busch Conservation Area classrooms in the St. Louis Regional Office unless otherwise noted.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Beginning Atlatl

March 26 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – noon
(Ages 11 and up)

Come join our experts and learn the art of atlatl. The atlatl predates the bow and arrow and in 2010 became a legal method of harvesting a deer in Missouri. It is used to throw a 4-6 foot long, spear-like projectile known as a dart. The atlatl is a wooden shaft approximately a foot-and-a-half long with a socket or knock at the rear to engage the dart. The dart is placed along the shaft with its back end resting in the socket or knock. The hunter grips the atlatl near its front end and performs a forward throw using the upper arm and wrist. The flipping motion of the atlatl creates angular momentum that propels the dart with greater speed and power than can be achieved with the arm alone. Ages 11-15 must be accompanied by an adult. We will meet in the August A. Busch Conservation Area Regional Office classroom. (Reservations begin Feb 28.)

Unless otherwise indicated, youth under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance. Enjoy nature exhibits, attend programs, purchase hunting and fishing permits, browse through a nature-related gift shop, and pick up free conservation brochures. Outdoors, enjoy three miles of hiking trails through oak-hickory forest.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. DST
8 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

You and Me under the Canopy

March 8 • Tuesday • 10 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 2 – 6)

Families, meet in the nature center lobby for a “nature” adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won’t be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the tree canopy. Siblings are welcome. In case of inclement weather, the program will be indoors and may be shortened. (Reservations begin Feb 23.)

Spring Break Special: *Passport to Nature* at Powder Valley

March • Tuesdays – Saturdays • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

(All Ages)

Are you looking for some good quality activities for the whole family during spring break? Then Powder Valley is your destination! This month we have interactive activities in our nature center, as well as scavenger hunts and other fun things to do. Stop by the front desk and pick up your free passport. You can collect a stamp by exploring the nature center on your own, by taking part in a suggested activity, or by attending a March program. (No reservations required.)

Scout Discovery Table: Ecosystems and Food Webs

March 12 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

(All ages)

Explore ecosystems and food webs during this month’s Scout Discovery Table. The Scout Discovery Table is a way to help Boy and Girl Scouts earn a portion of a badge relating to nature and wildlife. This month, scouts will discover how food webs relate to ecosystems, what an ecosystem is, and what types of ecosystems can be found in Missouri. They will also learn about ways that they can improve their local ecosystem. Scout Discovery Tables are open to scout groups and the general public. Girl Scouts-Brownies: Senses Step 3. Juniors: Animal Habitats Step 2 and 5. Cub Scouts- Tigers: Tigers in the Wild #7. Wolves: Paws on the Path #7. Bears: Fur, Feathers, Ferns #1. Webelos: Into the Wild #7 and #8. Boy Scouts: Insects #12, Mammal Study #4g, Nature #3, Fish and Wildlife #5c, Environmental Science #3a. (No reservations required.)

Volunteer Milestones

Barbara Cerutti	300 hours
Elizabeth Cosbey	3000 hours
Shirley Fitzgibbons	2500 hours
Betsy Frick	300 hours
David Themes	100 hours

Feeling Fishy

March 15 • Tuesday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

Would you like to be a fish? Would you like to be able to swim up, down, forward, and backward? Do you think it would feel like flying? How would you breathe, though? How would you get along without arms and legs? In other words, how are fish different from the mammals around us? Learn the general biology of fish and explore some examples of fishy carnivores (bass, trout, and gar), omnivores (catfish and sturgeon), and herbivores (paddlefish). We’ll also play a fishy game and make a fishy craft. (Reservations begin March 1.)

Survival 101

March 19 • Saturday • 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

(Ages 7 – 12)

Do you have what it takes to survive the wilds of Missouri? Join Missouri Department of Conservation naturalists as we discover valuable survival skills. Practice shelter building and fire starting skills. Find out what items may be valuable to have in a survival backpack, how to put them to use, and how to signal for rescue. Please come prepared for the weather. (Reservations begin March 5.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

If You Care, Leave Them There

March 22 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – noon
(Families, ages 4 and up)

What should you do if you find a baby bird on the ground? How about if you find a nest of rabbit kits, or maybe a fawn with no parent around? Nature usually has ways of taking care of itself, and we will show you how in this fun and interactive family program, just in time for all of those spring babies! (Reservations begin March 8.)

Wild Turkey Hunting and Calling Seminar

March 23 • Wednesday • 6 – 8:30 p.m.
(Ages 6 and up)

Discover how exciting turkey calling can be at this informative workshop. We will discuss calling tips and techniques for beginners as well as advanced instruction. We will then discuss how to apply calling in real turkey hunting situations, exploring the different scenarios that hunters often encounter. Learn useful turkey hunting and calling tips at this information packed seminar! (Reservations begin March 1.)

Nature's Nook Book Club for Adults

March 25 • Friday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.
(Adults)

Whether you came to our first book club in January or not, join us this month. The book club meets every other month to discuss an important work of fiction or non-fiction related to our natural world. The title for March is *Let them be Eaten by Bears*, by Peter Brown Hoffmeister. This book encourages us to get outdoors, and to take the children in our lives with us. Start reading, and we will see you soon! (Reservations begin March 11.)

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254

Outdoor Explorer: Fishing

March 22 • Tuesday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 9 – 13)

Let's go fishing! It's all about fish today; tying a knot, baiting a hook, casting a line, and fish identification. We'll spend the morning learning the particulars. After lunch we will relax and see which bait is best. This program meets at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes in Forest Park. Participants should bring a sack lunch, water bottle, and dress to be outdoors for the day. (Reservations begin March 1.)

Outdoor Explorer: Archery

March 23 • Wednesday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 9 – 13)

Start the morning off discovering how mammal identification and tracking are essential to archers. Archery teaches you discipline, concentration, and resilience. Not to mention, it's a great sport either in or outdoors. Once you familiarize yourself with the bow and can shoot the arrow, an archery skills challenge will begin. Are you in? This program meets at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes in Forest Park. Participants should bring a sack lunch, water bottle, and dress to be outdoors for the day. (Reservations begin March 1.)

Outdoor Explorer: Outdoor Skills

March 24 • Thursday • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
(Ages 9 – 13)

Hone your outdoor knowledge as we practice skills such as geocaching, fire building, and atlatl. After today you will become capable, confident outdoorsmen/women. This program meets at the Forest Park Hatchery and Educational Fishing Lakes in Forest Park. Participants should bring a sack lunch, water bottle, and dress to be outdoors for the day. (Reservations begin March 1.)



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday – Sunday: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Volunteer Milestones

Craig Vincent 2,000 hours

Patrice Wilson 400 hours

Spring Break Special: *Passport to Nature* at Columbia Bottom

March • Wednesdays – Fridays • 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturdays – Sundays • 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

(All Ages)

Spend your spring break discovering Columbia Bottom's diverse ecosystems. The bottomland prairies, wetlands, and forests are waking up, primed for discovering. Come into the visitor center Wednesday through Sunday and pick up your free passport, then check out a discovery backpack to aid your efforts. We offer forest, birding, prairie, and wetland/slough backpacks. Bring a form of identification to check out a backpack. Backpack must be returned before the Visitor Center closes. (No reservations required.)

Monarch Butterflies and Native Plants

March 5 • Saturday • 9 – 10:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

What can you do NOW to help Monarch butterflies during their long migration to Mexico in the fall? Plant milkweed, of course, but other native plants should be in the picture as well. Learn how to use native plants to enhance your own landscape while helping the Monarch, other butterflies, birds and wildlife. (Reservations begin Feb 17.)



Discover Dresser Island

March 12 • Saturday • 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

Has Spring Fever struck and you need to get out of the house? The cure – take an invigorating walk along the Mississippi River on Dresser Island. Watch for eagles, pelicans, trumpeter swans, and other migrating waterfowl. Dress for the weather, and wear shoes that can get muddy. We will walk up to 4 miles so bring a water bottle and a snack. Bring binoculars and field guides to help spot and identify any wildlife you might see. (Reservations begin Feb 24.)

Geocaching at Columbia Bottom for Beginners

March 15 • Tuesday • 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

(Families)

As the weather gets warmer the geocachers start coming out! This modern day treasure hunt combines technology and nature into an adventure in the great outdoors. Join us at Columbia Bottom and learn about this exciting and sometimes challenging hobby. Bring along your own GPS or borrow one from us! Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin March 1.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

Spring Break Special: *Passport to Nature* at Busch

March • Mondays - Fridays • 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(All ages)

Are you antsy to get outdoors and run around during your spring break? Take advantage of your limited free time and reconnect with the great outdoors by visiting a conservation area! Busch will be offering a self-guided nature hunt challenge for the whole month of March during our regular office hours. Stop by the office to get going and be sure to pick up a passport and sticker if you are up for the challenge of visiting at least three of the four participating Conservation Areas for a prize! (No reservations required.)

Night Time Off-Trail Navigation with Accuracy

March 5 • Saturday • 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

(Families with children ages 10 and up)

A challenging adventure awaits your family on this 3-4 mile, night time navigation trip at Howell Island Conservation Area! Your resources will be: laser pointers, compass, map, GPS, and experienced naturalists. Navigate predetermined waypoint destinations, utilizing all of your tools to gain navigation confidence. (Reservations begin Feb 19.)

It's Purple Martin Time

March 12 • Saturday • 9:30 – 11 a.m.

(Ages 14 and up)

Welcome purple martins back after their annual spring migration from South America. Learn how you can help conserve these beautiful, insect-eating, cavity dwelling swallows that are native to Missouri. You'll also learn how to establish and manage a colony of purple martins in your own backyard. Weather permitting we will view the housing that a colony of purple martins uses each year at the Busch Visitor Center. (Reservations begin Feb 23.)

Timberdoodles and Spring Peepers

March 12 • Saturday • 5:15 – 8:30 p.m.

(Adults)

March 19 • Saturday • 6:15 – 9:30 p.m.

(All Ages)

Come experience the sounds of a late winter evening during a moderate hike! We'll listen and watch for Timberdoodles (American Woodcock) performing their unusual courtship display shortly after sunset. This "nature show" belongs to one of the strangest members of the bird world. After watching the Timberdoodle display there will be an optional hike to look and listen for small frogs called Spring Peepers who are also beginning their noisy courtship display. (Reservations begin Feb 26 for the adult program and March 4 for the all ages program.)

Native Plants for Homeowners Workshop

March 19 • Saturday • 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

(Adults)

Are you new to native plants and not sure where to start? Naturally resilient native grasses, sedges, flowers, shrubs, vines and trees are all great for home landscaping. They solve common gardening problems and attract butterflies, hummingbirds and song birds. Learn landscape design ideas, sources to purchase plants, and



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

techniques to identify and propagate home native plants. We'll even get you started with some seedlings to take home in time for spring planting. Please dress for the weather for field time in the native gardens. (Reservations begin March 1.)

Hop into Spring!

March 22 • Tuesday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

We see rabbits on a regular basis in Missouri but how much do you actually know about them? Whether you enjoy their presence, like to rabbit hunt, or just wish they'd keep more distance from your property, come learn and better understand the lifecycle and habits of rabbits. You may be surprised how much you didn't know about these common mammals! (Reservations begin March 1.)

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Feathered Friends

March 11 • Friday • 10 – 11 a.m.
(Ages 3 – 6)

It's almost springtime, and many birds are making their way back from their winter homes. Let's celebrate all birds by learning about their special traits. We'll discuss what makes a bird a bird, make some binoculars, and go outside to spot birds in the wild. (Reservations begin Feb 26.)

Volunteer Milestones

Victoria Childers 300 hours
Martha Schermann 200 hours

Spring Break Special: *Passport to Nature* at Rockwoods

March • Mondays - Fridays • 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(All Ages)

Looking for an outdoors activity while you are on spring break? Why not come to Rockwoods Reservation for a hike? Spend part of your day on the beautiful Trail Among the Trees. Pick up your Passport to Nature booklet at the trailhead. There are three questions in the Rockwoods section of the passport that can be answered on this 1.5-mile hike. You may go into the building at Rockwoods to check your answers and pick up your sticker, or any of the other participating sites (Columbia Bottom, Busch, and Powder Valley) will also have an answer key. You can also pick up your special Rockwood sticker at that site. (No reservations required.)

Native Plants for Homeowners Workshop

March 19 • Saturday • 9 – 11 a.m.
(Adults)

Are you new to native plants and not sure where to start? Naturally resilient native grasses, sedges, flowers, shrubs, vines, and trees are great for home landscaping. They solve common gardening problems and attract butterflies, hummingbirds, and song birds. Learn landscape design ideas, sources to purchase plants, and techniques to identify and propagate home native plants. We'll even get you started with some seedlings to take home in time for spring planting. Please dress for the weather for field time in the native gardens. (Reservations begin March 4.)

Spring Hike: Engelmann Woods Natural Area

March 25 • Friday • 10 a.m. – noon
(Ages 10 and up)

This 1.5 mile hike winds through one of the last examples of old-growth forest adjacent to the Missouri River. We will look for spring wildflowers and the earliest migratory birds. Engelmann Woods is located in Franklin County, 3 miles east of Labadie on Route T. (Reservations begin March 11.)

Helping our State Bird, the Bluebird

March 26 • Saturday • 10 – 11:30 a.m.
(Families)

Learn about bluebirds, when they were designated as a state symbol, and how to establish a breeding pair in your own yard. Build a bluebird house to take home (one per family). Please dress for the weather and bring a hammer, as we will be building outside. (Reservations begin March 4.)

Morels and More

March 28 • Monday • 1 – 3 p.m.
or 5 – 7 p.m.
(Adults)

There's fungus among us! Learn about Missouri's edible mushrooms in this three part series. Each session will have an indoor and outdoor component. When you reserve a spot, you'll be enrolled in all three classes. Classes are offered on the below dates from 1 – 3 p.m. OR 5 – 7 p.m. (Reservations begin March 14.)

March 28 – Session 1: Common edible and poisonous mushrooms of Missouri

April 4 – Session 2: Morel habitat and identification

April 11 – Session 3: Collecting, storing, and cooking morels and other edible mushrooms